

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice.

9. (Amended) A storage allocation method comprising:
receiving a request for media program storage services from a
client;
allocating a predetermined amount of client available storage
capacity to the client in response to the request for media
program storage services;
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receiving a request for storage of an identified media
program from the client; and
storing the identified media program and determining an
amount of client available storage capacity remaining after the
storage of the identified program.

10. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9
comprising notifying the client of the amount of remaining client
available storage.

11. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 10
comprising offering additional storage capacity to the client.

12. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9
comprising receiving a request for additional storage from the
client and in response thereto, allocating additional storage
capacity to the client.

13. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9
comprising delivering the stored media program from storage to the
client and increasing the storage allocated to the client by an

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amount substantially equal to the storage used to store the stored media program.

14. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9 wherein an expiration date is established for the media program stored and the amount of storage capacity used to store the identified media program is made reusable by the client at the passing of the expiration date.

15. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 14 comprising notifying the client of the expiration date before the passing of the expiration date.

16. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 15 comprising offering the client an additional time period of storage for the stored multimedia program.

17. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9 wherein the predetermined amount of client available storage capacity allocated the client is determined by a quality of service level requested by the client and the method comprises assigning a cost to the client based on the allocated amount of storage.

18. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9 wherein the predetermined amount of client available storage capacity allocated to the client is determined by a request for storage capacity from the client and the method comprises assigning a cost to the client based on the allocated amount of storage.

19. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9 comprising determining the amount of storage needed to store a media program identified by the client and denying storage when

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the needed amount of storage exceeds the amount of client available storage.

20. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 19 comprising offering additional storage capacity to the client.

21. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 18 wherein the media program storage system includes a plurality of media program storage locations and the method comprises notifying an allocator function of the total amount of storage capacity in use to store media programs requested by the client.

22. (Amended) A media program storage system comprising:
a plurality of storage units for receiving and storing a predetermined plurality of media program signals, said storage units being located in different geographic locations;

a network accessible server for receiving requests for storage of identified media program signals from network connected clients and in response to a request from a client for notifying one of the plurality of storage units to receive and store the identified media program signal wherein the network accessible server stores a value identifying an amount of storage available to the client; and

the storage units comprise apparatus responsive to the notifications from the network accessible server for receiving and storing the identified program and for notifying the requesting client of a network address at which to retrieve the stored media program.

23. (Original) A media program storage system in accordance with claim 22 comprising apparatus responsive to a delivery

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request from the client via the network for delivering the stored media program to the client via the network.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) A media program storage system in accordance with claim 22 wherein the network accessible server stores a preferred listing of media programs for access by the client.

26. (Original) A media program storage system in accordance with claim 25 wherein the network accessible server stores listings of media programs in addition to the preferred listing.

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Please cancel claims 27-33 without prejudice.
